

PLANET OF THE APES

"THE SURGEON"

By

Barry Oringer

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CAST LIST

GALEN

PETE BURKE

ALAN VIRDON

URKO

ZAIUS

KIRA (CHIMP)

LEANDER (CHIMP)

HAMAN (GORILLA)

TRAVIN (HUMAN)

GIRL (HUMAN)

JORDO (HUMAN)

BRIGID (HUMAN)

LA FER (HUMAN)

CLEON (GORILLA)

CHESTER (GORILLA)

DR. STOLE (CHIMP)

HUMAN

Various Gorillas, Hospital Attendants, Humans

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

MEDICAL CENTER: SCRUB ROOM
CORRIDOR
KIRA'S OFFICE
LEANDER'S QUARTERS
HUMANS' QUARTERS
LIBRARY
OPERATING ROOM

URKO'S OFFICE
ZAIUS' STUDY

EXTERIORS:

COUNTRYSIDE (VARIOUS AREAS)
CAMPSITE
MEDICAL CENTER AND ENTRANCE
COUNTRY ROAD
CENTRAL CITY STREETS
ZAIUS' HOUSE

"THE SURGEON"

ACT ONE

FADE IN

(NOTE TO DIRECTOR: PLEASE ALLOW 45 FEET OF SILENT ACTION FOR SUPERIMPOSITION OF TITLES)

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

1

Fairly thick brush and rolling hills dominate the area. As CAMERA HOLDS, the brush is moved slightly near CAMERA and the 1ST GORILLA is revealed. He raises his rifle, leveling, aiming, waiting. CAMERA PANS a short distance to another clump of brush near to which 2ND GORILLA is concealed. He has his rifle at the ready. He looks o.s.

MED. LONG P.O.V. SHOT

2

A dry stream bed along which VIRDON, BURKE and GALEN progress CAMERA ZOOMS IN to HOLD them more tightly and reveal they are not aware of any danger.

BURKE

We've been following this stream long enough to win a merit badge. Where are we supposed to be going?

GALEN

There's a cave beyond that bank. I found it when I was very young and I played there after that. It was a great place to hide when I wanted to stay out of school for a day.

ANGLE ON 3RD GORILLA IN BRUSH

3

He, too, waits with rifle at ready, watching the approach of Virdon, Burke and Galen, o.s. CAMERA PANS to 4TH GORILLA, fairly well concealed and with his rifle ready. Now CAMERA MOVES beyond the brush to reveal the GORILLA COMMANDER. He stands behind the 4th Gorilla, holding the reins of his horse. He is peering off in the direction of Virdon, Burke and Galen. He signals silently to the other Gorillas, o.s., indicating that they should wait for a better shot that will be forthcoming inevitably. Registering great satisfaction at what he deems to be a certain outcome, he pats 4th Gorilla confidently on the back, and both watch for the quarry to move closer.

ANGLE ON BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN

BURKE

We're always heading for a hut or a cave or a ruined building -- real fun places. At least if there were a taco stand along the way...

GALEN

You expect me to ask what a taco stand is, don't you?

VIRDON

Pay no attention, Galen. He's dreaming and drooling as usual.

Galen stops, as do the others.

GALEN

Maybe we should cut across here. The brush doesn't seem too thick.

VIRDON

You know where we're going, we don't.

Galen leads the trio at an oblique angle.

ANGLE ON 4TH GORILLA AND GORILLA COMMANDER

5

tense, watching o.s. Gorilla Commander has his hand raised, ready to order his troops to fire.

MED. LONG P.O.V. SHOT - BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN

6

They cut across the stream bed. They present reasonably good targets, but they're not in a position where they're certain to be shot at point blank range yet. Their present path will take them to cover.

CLOSE SHOT - GORILLA COMMANDER

7

just about to order his men to fire. At the last moment, he turns his hand to signal they should wait.

P.O.V. SHOT - VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN

8

They have stopped. CAMERA ZOOMS IN.

GALEN

Actually, now that I look around, I think it would be easier to get to the cave from that point where the bank is shallow up there.

Cont.

BURKE

Okay.

The three move forward along the stream bed. They are coming closer and closer to the Gorillas and certain death.

ANGLE ON GORILLA COMMANDER AND 4TH GORILLA A-8

who are waiting. Much satisfaction from the Gorilla Commander. He leans forward. In so doing, he draws his horse a half step forward. Either the horse whinnies or kicks some gravel.

ANGLE ON VIRDON, BURKE AND GALEN B-8

freezing for just an instant at the sound.

VIRDON

Run!

They do.

ANGLE ON GORILLAS C-8

sighting along their rifles.

GORILLA COMMANDER

Fire!

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE D-8

Burke, Virdon and Galen race for the brush-covered bank, with Virdon bringing up the rear. The Gorillas fire from the bank. Virdon is hit in the back, stumbles and falls. Burke turns, sees him, rushes up to him, drags him into a narrow, brush-covered gully out of line of the Gorillas' fire. Burke helps him to his feet, but Virdon's leg buckles under him.

VIRDON

My back.

ANGLE ON BURKE, VIRDON AND GALEN E-8

Virdon is being assisted by Burke and Galen. They move as rapidly as they can through the brush. Virdon is clearly in bad shape. The SOUND of the Gorillas' horses crashing in pursuit can be heard.

GALEN

Over there! If we make the cave we have a chance.

ANOTHER ANGLE

F-8

The trio struggles to a cave mouth. SOUND of pursuing horses closer. Burke helps Virdon into cave. Galen grabs some loose brush to cover the cave mouth. Then he disappears into the cave. CAMERA HOLDS as a couple of Gorillas thunder by on their horses.

INT. CAVE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

G-8

A small cooking fire. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Galen at the fire, lifting a pot of water off the fire. He stirs in some unidentified herbs. In b.g., Virdon, his back bandaged with cloth, is being tended to by Burke. Now Burke comes up to the fire, picks up some of the herbs, and says to Galen:

BURKE

This looks like Camomile..

GALEN

(shrugs)

I don't know what it is...It grows wild all over the countryside. My mother used to give it to us when we were sick. It's very effective!

BURKE

(shakes his head)

Camomile for a bullet wound!
That's like prescribing chicken soup for Bubonic Plague.

Galen gives Virdon the drink. Virdon takes a sip. Burke asks, anxiously:

BURKE

How's the pain?

VIRDON

(evading)

The bullet must be lodged close to a nerve.

Burke puts his hand on pressure points in succession.

BURKE

Do you feel that?

VIRDON

Yeah...

BURKE

How about that?

VIRDON

Barely...

GALEN
(concerned)
Is that bad?

BURKE
(to Virdon)
We're going to have to get you
to a hospital.

VIRDON
What hospital? Our Blue Cross
expired a thousand years ago.

GALEN
There's a medical center on the
outskirts of Central City.

VIRDON
That Camomile must be going to
your head. We walk into an ape
hospital, we can forget about reading
any more continued stories. The
Gorillas would be all over the place
before we filled out the application
blank.

BURKE
(ignoring Virdon)
How good is that medical center?

GALEN
The best in the world -- this world.

VIRDON
I'm not letting you two stick your
necks out. I'll take my chances
that this bullet will settle in a
noncritical spot if I give it time
and rest.

BURKE
Save your breath, Alan. Say we get
in this place, Galen. The Apes don't
reserve their best medical aid for
humans.

GALEN
I know the chief surgeon at the
Center. She'll help us.

VIRDON
Galen, we're enemies of the state...

Cont.

GALEN

Kira's a physician, she doesn't care about politics -- Even if she knew about you, she wouldn't turn her back on someone in trouble.

BURKE

Are you sure?

GALEN

(hesitantly)

We were very close once. In fact, we were going to be married. Things didn't work out. But we're still the best of friends.

Burke ponders this.

BURKE

We've got no other choice.

Before Virdon can protest:

GALEN

I know a back route to the Center; I won't have any trouble traveling alone. Don't worry. I happen to be an expert in female psychology. I know Kira won't let me down.

He takes off.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

9

It is a compound of buildings on the outskirts of Central City. Over the entrance, a red and white flag with an ape head and, beneath the head, a row of three red circles symbolizing a hospital. (NOTE: The same symbol should be seen on the uniforms of the Ape staff and on the ambulance carts.)

INT. SCRUB ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

10

of a pair of chimpanzee hands under a running faucet. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL KIRA, a chimpanzee, in her thirties, in a surgical gown. In b.g., other Ape medical personnel, washing after surgery.

The door opens and LEANDER ENTERS, the director of the Center, a Chimpanzee, middle-aged, with an easy, confident, almost arrogant manner, a man sure of his authority and the validity of his own vision of the world. Kira does not see him as he ENTERS -- she seems depressed, self-absorbed, as he calls:

Cont.

LEANDER

Kira.

She stops, turns -- then reacts, obviously gratified, despite her depression, to see Leander.

LEANDER

I watched the operation. You did a brilliant job.

KIRA

Technically brilliant -- and the patient died.

She turns away.

LEANDER

The operation was a success. The surgical knowledge we learn from these failures will someday help other patients...and surgeons.

KIRA

That's not a particularly satisfying philosophy.

LEANDER

(smiles)

You think I'm cruel? You can tell me the truth.

KIRA

Tell the truth to my superior. I could be fired for such recklessness.

LEANDER

Only a fool would fire his best and most beautiful surgeon.

(then)

I'll see you at the conference tomorrow night, won't I?

KIRA

Conference?

LEANDER

A private lecture I'm giving, on the therapeutic virtues of vegetable casserole and apricot wine. I'm holding it in my apartment, at eight.

KIRA

Is attendance mandatory?

Cont.

LEANDER

Only for you.

KIRA

In that case, I'll be there.

She touches his arm in a gesture of affection, and EXITS. He watches her go with a look of even greater emotion, mingled with satisfaction over what a cool and sophisticated fellow he is.

INT. MEDICAL CENTER CORRIDOR - DAY

11

Kira heads down the corridor, past various hospital personnel; the Ape staff in white uniforms, a human or two doing menial chores as sweepers and orderlies. At the end of the corridor, she reaches a door, opens it, and steps into:

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Drapes on each side of the window (where Galen will be found to be hiding). Chairs, a cabinet in which are some primitive medical instruments, and a desk upon which is an exotic flower. Kira ENTERS, takes off her surgical gown and starts toward desk. She stops abruptly as she spots the flower on the desk. It has meaning for her. She crosses, picks it up, looking at it in disbelief for a moment. She turns slowly to look around the room. Galen steps out into view.

GALEN

Hello, Kira...

KIRA

(a beat)
As simple as that...

(of the flower)
This to remind me, a casual 'hello,'
then everything else is forgotten.

GALEN

Not everything...

KIRA

Go away, Galen...

GALEN

I came here for help...

KIRA

You're a criminal and a traitor.

GALEN

You don't think that.

Cont.

KIRA

What else would I think? Galen, I don't want to argue. Please go away. It's dangerous for you here.

GALEN

One of my friends is hurt.

KIRA

The only friends you have are renegade humans!

GALEN

He may die if you don't help.

KIRA

Why should I care if a human dies?

GALEN

If for no other reason, because I care -- a very great deal.

KIRA

I don't know you. You're a stranger, a renegade who's chosen to live with humans.

GALEN

Is that such a dreadful crime?

KIRA

I should call the police.

GALEN

They'd kill me.

KIRA

They'd be doing justice.

A long silence as the hatred in her words hangs heavy in the air. Then Galen says, in a quiet voice:

GALEN

I loved you. To hear these words from you now...I'm sorry I came.

He turns to exit through the window. She calls him:

KIRA

Galen.

He turns, waits. She continues, in a turmoil of conflict.

Cont.

KIRA

You were a decent, law-abiding
ape once. What happened to you?

GALEN

I had a terrible accident. I
collided with the truth: that apes
and humans are meant to be equals,
not masters and slaves.

KIRA

You really believe that?

GALEN

Yes.

KIRA

And to help you, I must help them?

GALEN

They are my brothers now.

Long silence. Then, in a voice filled with anguish and
despair:

KIRA

I thought I had forgotten you,
that I had a chance to find a
new happiness. I should have known
you'd come back to destroy that
chance.

CAMERA HOLDS on Galen's reaction to her bitter words.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

13

Burke on guard, tending the embers of the fire. Virdon is
awake, resting on a bed of leaves and pine needles. Then a
NOISE. Burke whirls, reaches for his weapon. The next
moment, Galen ENTERS THE SCENE, carrying a sack over his back.
Burke relaxes.

BURKE

What took so long?

GALEN

I had to pick up a medical degree.

(takes a uniform
from sack)

This is for the renowned specialist,
Dr. Adrian.

Cont.

GALEN (Cont.)

(takes out a human's
orderly uniform)

And this is for his faithful servant.
Under the circumstances, it was the
best position available.

BURKE

As long as I have a chance to grow
on the job.

VIRDON

Even if this crazy masquerade works,
the hospital is miles away. I can
barely stand up, let alone walk that
distance -- I'd never make it.

GALEN

My dear Alan, a patient of your
eminence should not have to walk
at all.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

14

A horse-drawn food cart comes down the road driven by a man
in his forties named ASHER. A gorilla named HAMAN rides
shotgun alongside the human, a rifle at hand. Suddenly, they
see a figure appear coming down the road toward them. It is
Burke. He motions for the driver to stop the cart. The
Gorilla raises his rifle and calls:

HAMAN

What do you want?

BURKE

My cart broke down. I'm delivering
corn to the Prefect. I need help
or he'll beat me for being late.

The Gorilla dismounts, goes up to Burke.

HAMAN

I think you're lying. I know the
Prefect's servants.

Burke looks past the Gorilla to:

P.O.V. SHOT

15

Galen is sneaking out of the bushes behind the driver.

BACK TO SCENE

16

Burke points o.s. in sudden alarm:

BURKE

Ask him yourself.

(to imaginary Prefect)

Sir, would you tell this Ape I
never, ever lie...

The Gorilla turns; Burke knocks the rifle out of his hand, then picks it up and clobbers him with it as Galen jumps the human, knocks him off the cart and pins him to the ground. Burke checks the Gorilla. He is unconscious. Burke empties the Gorilla's rifle, throws the gun into the bushes, then races up to the terrified driver:

BURKE

Good-bye and good luck.

Galen lets the driver go. The driver runs off down the road back in the direction he came from. Burke and Galen rush behind the bushes, where Virdon is lying. They lift him onto the cart, and pull the tarpaulin over him. Galen takes the Gorilla's seat. Burke takes the reins and the cart moves off down the road.

INT. LEANDER'S QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

17

of lighted candles on a table. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Leander and Kira, at opposite ends of the table having dinner. Leander looks at Kira, who is distracted, lost in thought:

LEANDER

You don't seem very excited about
my vegetable casserole. Did I put
in too much honey?

KIRA

It's delicious. Really. I'm
just not very hungry tonight.

LEANDER

Something worrying you?

KIRA

(hesitant)

I was thinking about that orderly
we sent to disciplinary camp for
not obeying orders. I wonder...
was it really necessary to treat
him so harshly?

LEANDER

He behaved like an unruly beast.
Like an unruly beast, he needed
punishment. Where is the harshness?

Cont.

KIRA

But are humans nothing but beasts?

LEANDER

At their best, they're useful
animals; at their worst, carriers
of hatred and destruction.

KIRA

Whom we must then stamp out?

LEANDER

Of course.

Before she can reply, a KNOCK at the door.

LEANDER

Come in.

The door opens. An intern, DR. STOLE, ENTERS.

STOLE

I'm sorry for interrupting,
Director. There's a new arrival,
a Dr. Adrian. He says Dr. Kira
is expecting him.

LEANDER

Adrian. That's the doctor you
mentioned to me.

KIRA

(to Leander)

Yes. I'd better show him to his
quarters. Thank you for a lovely
evening.

She gets up and EXITS. The CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE on Leander,
brooding, pensive.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

18

Kira emerges from the hospital building and goes up to the
gates, where the cart with Burke and Galen waits. A human,
a man of forty-five named TRAVIN, is also present.

KIRA

Hello, Dr. Adrian.

GALEN

Ah, Dr. Kira. Sorry I'm late.
We had an accident. One of my
orderlies was injured.

He uncovers the tarpaulin to reveal Viridon lying in the back of the cart. Kira looks at him, trying to conceal her fear, then turns to Travin:

KIRA

Travin, find room for these two
in the humans' quarters.

(to Galen)

I'll show you to your room,
Doctor.

Travin helps Burke carry Viridon toward the humans' quarters, a low building at the edge of the compound. Galen goes o.s. toward the main hospital building with Kira.

WHIP PAN TO:

INT. LEANDER'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

19

and Leander, at the window, staring down at the scene below, his expression unreadable.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

20

A large central room, little more than a hovel, that serves as entrance hall, dining room, and, for those humans of lowliest status, sleeping place. Several humans are about; one of them, a plain-looking, timid, withdrawn girl of eighteen, is cleaning up after dinner; we will refer to her simply as GIRL, for reasons we will learn shortly.

Now she just stares as Travin, Burke and Viridon ENTER. Travin, with Burke's help, sets Viridon down on one of the straw pallets lining the room, then starts to go o.s. Seeing this, Burke says:

BURKE

Not here. He'll need his own room.

TRAVIN

I have my own room. All the other
humans sleep here.

BURKE

He's sick; he needs special care.

TRAVIN

We don't provide special care for
sick humans. If a man is sick, he
rests. If he lives, he returns
to work.

BURKE

That's a very progressive system,
but it doesn't apply to us.

TRAVIN

It applies to everyone.

BURKE

We work exclusively for Dr. Adrian.
And he gets very nervous when his
servants get pushed around. So
whatever passes for the luxury
accommodations around here, that's
where my friend goes.

And without waiting for an answer, he turns to Virdon and
starts to help him to his feet, saying:

BURKE

Come on, pal. I've just arranged
for a luxury suite.

VIRDON

Maybe I ought to stay put. We
shouldn't cause trouble.

BURKE

No problem; he wouldn't dream of
disagreeing with Dr. Adrian's orders.
(turns to Travin)
Give me a hand.

Travin reacts, frustrated, angry, but Burke's invoking of
a Chimpanzee doctor's authority stops him. He helps Burke
lift Virdon and carry him toward the interior of the house.

INT. TRAVIN'S (VIRDON'S) ROOM - NIGHT

A-20

Travin and Burke help Virdon to the bed, then Travin turns
to exit.

TRAVIN

(to Virdon)
I will bring food.

VIRDON

Thank you.

TRAVIN

(to Burke)
You will eat with the other
humans -- now.

He EXITS.

Cont.

BURKE

Num-num time. I'll check back
with you, Alan. Take it easy.

VIRDON

I'll be fine.

Burke EXITS.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

21

of Burke, at the table, gamely digging into a plate of something resembling food. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO THE SCENE: Burke at the table, the Girl at the fire in b.g., Travin next to him, eating his own meal in glowering silence; half a dozen other humans, all men, at the table, nobody making any conversation. Burke takes a bite of food, chews it several times, says:

BURKE

This is terrific. What is it,
dried mule hooves?

There is no answer.

BURKE

(to Travin)
You wouldn't happen to have
some sauce for a taste-killer?

TRAVIN

We have what we have.

BURKE

Well, that's okay. They probably
didn't have great food at
King Arthur's Round Table either.

The Girl comes up to the table, sets some bread down before each man. Nobody comments, until she sets a piece of bread before Burke, who says:

BURKE

Thanks. What's your name?

At that, Travin reacts with sudden explosive anger:

TRAVIN

Don't talk to her!

Cont.

BURKE

I just asked her name.

TRAVIN

She has no name!

BURKE

Everybody has a name.

TRAVIN

Her name has been taken from her.
She is no one.

BURKE

What did she do, criticize the
chef?

Travin glowers at him, then gets up and leaves the table in anger. One of the other humans, a man named JORDO, says to Burke:

JORDO

The girl is his daughter.

And Jordo returns to his eating bowl in silence. CAMERA
HOLDS on Burke, puzzled.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - NIGHT

22

Viridon is asleep, tossing fitfully.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - NIGHT

23

The men are asleep on the floor of the main room, which is dimly illuminated by the light of a lantern in the adjacent kitchen area. A figure ENTERS -- it is Travin. He checks the sleeping men, makes sure that Burke is among them, then goes on through the interior of the house to:

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - NIGHT

24

Viridon is asleep in a corner of the small room. Travin ENTERS, sets his lantern down, sits and stares for a long moment at the sleeping man. (NOTE: Viridon is sleeping on one side, so that his pocket is exposed, but his knife remains hidden.) Then when he is sure Viridon is asleep, he starts to search his pocket.

ANGLE FAVORING VIRDON

25

Suddenly coming awake, he makes a painful effort and grabs Travin's arm.

Cont.

VIRDON
What are you doing?

TRAVIN
They told me to look in on you.
I wanted to make sure you were
all right.

VIRDON
I'm all right. Thank you.

He closes his eyes again. Travin gets up, goes outside to:

EXT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - NIGHT 26

Alone in the compound, Travin opens his fist to reveal:

INSERT - THE OBJECT IN TRAVIN'S HAND 27

A small compass, the needle holding its direction as Travin
turns the compass around in his hand.

BACK TO SCENE 28

Travin looks off toward the north, toward which the compass
needle is pointing; then stares at the strange object in
awe and terror -- what is it? Who are these strangers?
CAMERA HOLDS for a long beat, and:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - CLOSE SHOT - KIRA - DAY 29

a frown on her face as she pores over a large book.
Then she looks up, tense, frowning.

KIRA

It's no good.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Galen, whom she is addressing.

KIRA

All the medical texts deal
with apes. There's nothing
on humans.

GALEN

But you know where the bullet
is.

KIRA

(impatiently)

We know the bullet is lying
near a nerve. We don't know
what that nerve looks like or
where it runs. And there could
be major blood vessels in the
area. If we go in blindly,
we could kill him.

GALEN

(surprised)

Which means you care what
happens to him.

KIRA

I'm a surgeon. I'm not a
butcher who goes blundering in
with a knife just to see what
will happen. And to operate
in ignorance is butchery.

Galen thinks for a moment, then says hopefully, reaching
for straws:

GALEN

Kira, if I found a book on
human anatomy, would that help you?

KIRA

There are no books on human anatomy.
What ape would have wanted to write one?

GALEN

I was thinking of a human book.

KIRA

What are you talking about?
Humans don't write medical books.

GALEN

They once did. A long time ago.
When they ruled the earth.

KIRA

(shaken)
You're really mad.

GALEN

No.
(beat)
I've seen such books.

KIRA

In the fantasies of your
deranged mind?

GALEN

In the house of Zaius.

This is said with such powerful certitude that Kira cannot help but stare at him in shock, her vision of the world suddenly turned upside down. She cannot accept the concept -- yet, looking at Galen, she cannot completely deny its possibility. Before she can find a response, the door opens and Leander ENTERS.

LEANDER

Kira. I thought you were scheduled
to give a lecture to the staff
this morning.

KIRA

(shakily)
I postponed it till tomorrow.
I wanted to show Dr. Adrian our
facilities.

LEANDER

(to Galen)
And what's your impression,
Doctor?

Cont.

GALEN

Fantastic! Certainly far beyond anything I've seen. Of course, I'm not sure I would agree with all your procedures.

Kira reacts with fear. Is Galen crazy? Leander takes up Galen's challenge.

LEANDER

Oh? And what quarrel do you have with our procedures, Doctor?

GALEN

I don't wish to cause any offense...

LEANDER

Come, come, Doctor. I'd be glad to hear your learned opinions. Wouldn't you, Kira?

KIRA

(who is ready
to faint)

Yes. Yes, of course. Dr. Adrian is quite renowned in his field.

GALEN

(pompously)

As I see it, there's altogether too much emphasis these days on surgery, for everything from a broken leg to the vapors. While surgery is necessary in some cases, I myself prefer a more conservative approach.

LEANDER

You mean a special potion for every ailment?

GALEN

And/or leeches.

LEANDER

I see.

GALEN

(deadpan)

Except colds of course. That misfortune still has me and the others in my field stumped.

Cont.

Kira is ready to plotz at this brazen chutzpah. But to her surprise, Leander laughs and says to Kira:

LEANDER

I like our visitor. I hope you'll do your best to keep him here.

GALEN

And I look forward to working with you, Doctor.

Leander smiles, EXITS. Galen turns to Kira, who is nearly hysterical.

KIRA

'I look forward to working with you!' Do you think he's a fool? This whole thing is impossible. This crazy imposture, that non-existent book in Zaius' library...

GALEN

Kira, I'll find the book. And you'll have in your hands the power to advance our medicine. That book means life!

KIRA

It means death if we're caught.

GALEN

If we're caught, I'll confess that I forced you into this by threatening your life.

KIRA

(in despair)

You think I want you to die?

GALEN

No one wants to die. Ape or human. But we can't turn back now.

She is silent, which Galen takes for at least a diminishing of her resistance. On that hopeful note, he turns and EXITS.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - VIRDON - DAY 30

lying on his pallet, feverish, semi-conscious. CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Burke at his side. Burke tries to hide his concern as he feels Virdon's forehead.

BURKE

Hang in there, Buddy. You're doing fine.

VIRDON

I'm kind of fading in and out.
Like now, you're far away.

BURKE

The bullet is probably causing a toxic reaction. That medicine Kira gave us should start to work soon.

Travin ENTERS with some ice packs, which he hands to Burke. Burke takes them, lays them on Virdon's forehead. Suddenly Virdon begins to rave, deliriously.

VIRDON

No! The instruments...This isn't earth. What is it?
(then, terrified)
They're apes! This world is run by apes!

TRAVIN

What is he saying? Everyone knows the world is run by apes. And what does he mean, 'This isn't earth'?

GALEN'S VOICE

(o.s.)
I didn't realize the orderlies here did psychological studies of the patients.

CAMERA ANGLES as Travin turns to see Galen, who has just ENTERED.

TRAVIN

(chastened)
I only meant...

GALEN

(cutting in)
He's having a fever hallucination. It's your job to take care of him. If he dies and I have to break in a new orderly, I'll hold you responsible.

TRAVIN
(submissive)
Yes, Doctor.

He EXITS. Burke says to Galen:

BURKE
That guy worries me.

GALEN
He won't challenge my authority.

Virdon has lapsed into restless sleep.

BURKE
That's what Marie Antoinette said
about her baker. He'll be all
sweetness and light as long as he
thinks you're a real doctor. But
if Virdon keeps on raving like this,
he's bound to give us away sooner
or later.

GALEN
I'm not worrying about 'later.'
Kira can't operate without a text-
book on human anatomy.

BURKE
You said yourself they don't write
books about humans.

GALEN
I know of an old one -- in Zaius'
house.

BURKE
Let's get it.

An o.s. SCREAM is heard. Burke reacts, hurries out.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - DAY 31

Burke starts across the room.

FULL SHOT 32

The Girl (Travin's daughter) is being shaken and slapped
by a lummoX named LAFER while other humans in the area
go about their business as if nothing unusual is occurring.

Cont.

BURKE
(crossing)
Cut it out!

Lafer ignores him and gets set to give the Girl another blow. Burke rushes in, knocks his arm aside, pushes the man away. The man, infuriated, turns on Burke and swings at him. Burke reciprocates. As the two men struggle:

ANGLE ON TRAVIN 33

Emerging from his quarters, he stops, seeing the fight.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE 34

In the struggle, Burke's sheathed knife, which he has been wearing concealed beneath his tunic, is exposed.

REACTION SHOTS - TRAVIN AND OTHER HUMANS 35

reacting in seemingly disproportionate terror to the sight of the knife. One of them, a middle-aged woman named BRIGID, says, her voice trembling:

BRIGID
He has a weapon.

Travin rushes across the room just as Burke delivers a solid blow to Lafer's jaw. Before the fight can continue, Travin steps between them.

TRAVIN
Stop.

Lafer freezes in instant response to his leader's command. Travin, raging, says to both of them:

TRAVIN
What started this?

LAFER
She spilled the water.

BURKE
(incredulous)
And that's why you were beating the daylights out of her?

TRAVIN
All of us are required to discipline the girl. It's our duty, to keep us safe from the curse of evil.

Cont.

BURKE

She's your own daughter.

TRAVIN

I have no daughter.

Burke looks at Travin, who is like stone. Burke looks at the Girl. The Girl does not return his gaze. Travin turns to Lafer, who is rubbing his head and weaving slightly.

TRAVIN

Are you all right?

LAFER

My head feels strange. I would like to rest.

Travin nods permission. Lafer EXITS. Travin gives the Girl a look. She picks up her water pail and hurries o.s. The others disperse, leaving Travin alone with Burke. Travin says to Burke:

TRAVIN

I saw your knife.

BURKE

So?

TRAVIN

Humans are forbidden to carry knives in the city.

(beat)

Who are you?

BURKE

I'm Dr. Adrian's servant.

The invoking of Galen's name again stops Travin from saying anything further. Burke turns and walks o.s. Travin watches him go, then reaches into his pocket and takes out the compass that had fallen out of Viridon's pocket. He looks at it, then closes his fist on it, a hard glint of suspicion in his eyes.

INT. URKO'S OFFICE - DAY

36

Haman, the Gorilla who was hijacked by Burke and Galen, is being interrogated by Urko. CLEON, a Gorilla Officer, is also present.

URKO

The one who attacked you: What did he look like?

HAMAN

I don't know. I couldn't tell.
All humans look alike.

URKO

How many were there? You saw
something! Tell me!

HAMAN

There were two of them. One was
a human and...

(beat)

...The other was a chimpanzee.

CLEON

(reacting, furious)

You're saying an ape helped a
human commit a crime?

URKO

(coldly)

I'm handling this.

Cleon backs off.

URKO

Are you sure you're not spreading
some kind of hallucination? What
you're trying to say is, you were
frightened, you couldn't tell
who attacked you, isn't that so?

HAMAN

(eyes averted)

Yes, sir.

URKO

(after a beat)

Good. You've done your duty.
You can go now.

Haman, grateful, EXITS.

CLEON

Stupid, country ape! A chimpanzee
helping a human!

URKO

Cleon, you are a fool.

Cont.

Urko crosses the room to a large wall map. He studies it for a moment. Urko points to the map:

URKO

The patrol that claimed to have seen the Astronauts the day before yesterday -- how sure are they of that sighting?

CLEON

The men belong to one of our best units, sir. They're absolutely certain the Astronauts were headed into the Northern Mountains, away from Central City.

URKO

Could they have reversed their route and come back toward Central City?

CLEON

This is the most heavily patrolled area in the world. It isn't logical they'd take such a risk.

URKO

If they were logical creatures. But humans are often driven by odd impulses.

(thinks for a moment,
then says)

Cancel my trip to the New Territory. I think I'll stay here a few more days.

Cleon nods, salutes and EXITS. Urko turns to the map and studies it with deep concentration, the sense of a hunter closing in on his prey.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. HOSPITAL (MATTE) - DAY

37

A covered horse-drawn cart moves down the street at a brisk clip. As it passes the CAMERA we see the red and white ape head flag on its side, with the added three red circles indicating a hospital vehicle.

CLOSER ANGLE

38

Burke, in his hospital uniform, covered by a hooded garment ostensibly to protect against the cold, is driving, Galen riding alongside. Then from o.s. the SOUND of HORSES' HOOVES. The next moment a patrol of two mounted Gorillas comes into view and rides up to them. The first Gorilla, an officer named CHESTER, signals them to stop:

CHESTER

This is a restricted quarter,
what are you doing here?

GALEN

Emergency. We've been called
to the house of Zaius.

CHESTER

Zaius?

GALEN

He's had a heart attack. Shall
we spend the rest of the day
discussing it?

CHESTER

Zaius...I'll give you an escort!

They ride on. Burke and Galen follow.

BURKE

We need them for an escort like
we need a case of cholera. What
do we do when we get there? Tell
them Zaius changed himself into a
medical textbook?

GALEN

Why worry about that now? This
is a step-by-step business!

They drive on.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - DAY

A-38

Virdon is lying on his pallet, covered with blankets, his eyes closed, in a restless, fevered sleep. Kira ENTERS. She looks at Virdon, with mingled curiosity, fear and a residual of her long-standing hatred of humans. Virdon raves, delirious:

VIRDON

Susan...don't go! Wait for me.
I'll be home as soon as we get
the ship back...Tell Chris...

Then he stops as if aware, even in his delirium, that he is not alone. He opens his eyes.

P.O.V. SHOT - KIRA

B-38

swimming in and out of focus, the CAMERA rendering her only as some ominous-looking Ape.

BACK TO SCENE

C-38

Virdon reacting in terror.

VIRDON

No!

KIRA

Calm yourself. I'm Dr. Kira.

Her image comes into focus. Virdon relaxes.

VIRDON

Sorry. I was having a bad dream.
(then)
Where are Burke and Galen?

KIRA

They went to get help.

VIRDON

What kind of help?

KIRA

(contemptuously)
A surgical book. Supposedly
written by one of your doctors a
thousand years ago.
(changing the
subject)
This Susan you were calling...
who is she?

Cont.

VIRDON

My wife.

KIRA

And Chris?

VIRDON

He was...
(correcting
himself)

He is...my son.

KIRA

(skeptically)

Who also lived a thousand years ago?

VIRDON

They're still alive, somewhere.

KIRA

How could they be? Even if this crazy fantasy is true, that you came from a different time -- that world is now dead. Your wife, your child, they're also dead.

VIRDON

No, and I'm going to find some way back to them.

KIRA

You'll never see them again. The chances are you won't even survive this operation.

VIRDON

(has to laugh)

You have some bedside manner!

KIRA

I don't have time for bedside manners. I'm a scientist. I deal in reality. Even with this miraculous book your friends are looking for, your case is virtually hopeless.

VIRDON

Then why bother operating?

KIRA

There's a chance we may learn something...something that may help us treat our own patients someday.

VIRDON

Is that the only reason?

She looks at him long and hard and says, in a cool, steady voice, disguising her own internal conflicts:

KIRA

You believe I have some feelings
for Galen or you or your friend.

VIRDON

Maybe...

KIRA

I care no more for him than I do
for you. Do you understand?

VIRDON

I understand the words...

KIRA

(attacking)

You mean nothing! Humans have
no character, no loyalty, no
sense of honor. If they did, you
wouldn't have allowed yourself to
be brought here. Galen is a fool,
risking his life and you don't
even think of the danger he's
facing because of you. You're
blind and sentimental, you can't
control your emotions or your
thoughts. You'll destroy Galen,
and your friend -- you'll all be
destroyed.

On that grim note of warning, she gets up and EXITS. CAMERA
HOLDS on Virdon, watching her go. As she EXITS, Travin
APPEARS in the doorway; he steps aside quickly to let her
pass -- then looks at her retreating figure: Has he heard
any of the preceding exchange? We do not know. CAMERA
HOLDS, and then we:

CUT TO:

EXT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - DAY

39

O.s., the SOUND of HORSES' HOOVES and the rumble of the
AMBULANCE CART. The next moment cart and escort come into
view, riding TOWARD CAMERA, where they stop. Galen and
Burke jump off, take out a stretcher with blanket and a
medical bag and start for the front of the house. The
Gorillas follow. Galen turns to them:

Cont.

GALEN

Where are you going?

CHESTER

Into the house. If Zaius needs help...

GALEN

My dear fellow, Zaius has had a heart attack. That's a medical condition, not a criminal offense. You'd be more use guarding the ambulance; one of my colleagues had the wheels stolen off his cart almost within sight of the police garrison.

Galen and Burke follow the path toward the front of the house. When they are out of sight of the Gorillas, they change direction and head around toward the back of the house where Zaius' study is located. Leaving the stretcher on the ground, they climb through the window into:

INT. ZAIUS' STUDY - DAY

40

Galen and Burke ENTER through the window.

BURKE

Draw the curtain.

Galen does so, lights an oil lantern hanging on the wall, illuminating the now-darkened room. The first thing it shines on is a bust of Zaius. Galen and Burke look around the room -- and stop as their gaze falls on a glass door cabinet filled with books. Burke tries the cabinet door. It is locked. He takes out his knife, jimmies it open, scans the books. He finds one book and takes it out.

INSERT - BOOK

41

"PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY," by Walter Mather, M.D., F.A.C.S.

BACK TO SCENE

42

Burke, excitedly, to Galen:

BURKE

This is it.

(then)

But how do we get it past those Gorillas?

Cont.

Galen signals for Burke to wait. Galen moves to the Ape bust. He picks it up -- it is a light clay piece with a hollow interior, enabling Galen to carry it with ease. Holding it up to Burke, he says, with mock pomposity:

GALEN

Offhand, I'd diagnose this
case as a severe heart
attack.

With that he scoops up some pillows lying on a sofa. Burke closes the cabinet, and they EXIT out the window to:

EXT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - DAY

43

Galen and Burke emerge through the window, arrange the pillows on the stretcher with the sculptured bust at its head, and pull the blanket over it, leaving just the head exposed. Then Burke goes to the medical bag, takes out a sterile mask, puts it over the mouth and nose of the sculptured bust and he and Galen carry the stretcher back out to where the ambulance wagon is parked. The Gorillas help them load the stretcher onto the back of the wagon. Then Galen turns to Chester:

GALEN

Can I talk to you in private?

Chester nods, walks off a few paces with him and says, in a confidential tone:

GALEN

When a man like Zaius falls ill,
it's more than a medical problem.
Affairs of state are involved.
You follow my meaning?

CHESTER

(awed at
Galen's tone)
Yes, I think so.

GALEN

The Prime Minister is in there.
He told me to keep this quiet,
so as not to start a panic. I know
we can count on your cooperation...
We'll take the patient to the
hospital, and you resume your normal
patrol as if nothing happened.

Cont.

CHESTER

(salutes)

Yes, sir.

Galen nods. The patrol drives off. Galen joins Burke on the wagon and they drive off.

INT. KIRA'S OFFICE - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

44

of Kira at her desk, leafing through the pages of the book, a stunned look on her face. The CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Galen and Burke standing in front of her desk.

KIRA

Diagrams of the circulatory system. Surgical procedures. Is this a medical text? Or a work of fiction?

GALEN

You knew the answer to that as soon as you saw it.

KIRA

I can't believe a human wrote this!

BURKE

Dr. Mather was one of our greatest surgeons.

KIRA

(to Galen,
anguished)

If Zaius knew about this, why weren't we allowed to know?

GALEN

For political reasons: If humans could write books like this, why should they be content to be slaves? He was afraid it would mean the end of our civilization.

KIRA

(fearfully)

What if he's right?

Cont.

The question hangs heavily and ominously in the air. Before Galen can respond, an urgent KNOCK on the door. Galen, nearest the door, opens it to admit Travin, who says, excitedly:

TRAVIN

Dr. Adrian's servant is very sick.

They react with shock, then EXIT hurriedly.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - NIGHT

45

of Virdon in the throes of a convulsion, being held down by Burke, while Kira presses a piece of cloth between Virdon's teeth. After a few moments, the convulsion subsides. Virdon opens his eyes. Burke says, trying to disguise his fear:

BURKE

Easy, buddy. You okay?

VIRDON

(dazed)

I'll let you know as soon as the room stops moving. What happened?

KIRA

(coldly)

You had a convulsion. The bullet must have moved closer to the nerve.

She takes out a small bottle, opens it, gives it to Virdon. Virdon hesitates:

KIRA

I'm not trying to poison you. It's just a sedative.

Virdon takes the medicine. After a moment he closes his eyes, surrendering to the effects of the drug. Burke gets up, joins Kira and Galen in a conference in a corner of the room.

Cont.

BURKE

He's in bad shape. Do you think it's safe to delay that operation anymore.

KIRA

We may not be able to operate.

BURKE

What are you talking about?

KIRA

That seizure, I've seen it many times in gunshot cases. The bullet may have migrated into a region of dense blood vessels. If we go into that area, it's almost certain to touch off a massive internal bleeding...and in his condition, he couldn't survive a heavy loss of blood.

BURKE

We could transfuse blood during surgery. There are enough humans here to come up with some donors.

KIRA

(impatiently)

Blood transfer is impossible. We tried it once, a few years ago.

GALEN

On apes?

KIRA

On humans. We wouldn't consider trying such a radical procedure without testing it on animals first.

BURKE

What happened?

KIRA

The patient suffered a severe reaction and died within minutes of the blood transfer. Leander concluded that transferring blood from one being to another was against the laws of nature.

Cont.

BURKE

You must have tried the transfusion with a mismatched donor. There's a simple blood test we can do to find a compatible donor; we're bound to find one among all the humans here.

KIRA

What will you tell them? You said yourself that Travin is getting suspicious.

BURKE

I'll figure a way to handle Travin.

GALEN

How?

BURKE

We have something in common. We hate each other.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - MAIN ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - 46
DAY

of Travin, brooding, glowering at what he sees o.s. CAMERA HOLDS for a beat -- then PULLS BACK SLOWLY and PANS across a line of humans, the last of them holding his hand out so that Burke, under Dr. Galen's nominal supervision, can take a sample of his blood. When he is done, Burke says to Travin:

BURKE

We've got eleven samples.
I was told there are twelve humans here.

TRAVIN

(cold, hostile)
There are only eleven.

BURKE

(remembering)
Where's the girl?

TRAVIN

She is not a person!

BURKE

I think you'd better get her.

Cont.

Before Travin can respond, Galen says:

GALEN

One moment.

(takes Burke aside)

It could be dangerous to tamper
with these people's taboos.
Do we really need the girl?

BURKE

We might: Virdon's blood type
is AB negative. Statistically,
there's about one chance in ten
of finding a compatible donor.

GALEN

(turns to Travin)

Where is the girl?

TRAVIN

Cleaning the hall.

Galen nods to Burke, who EXITS. Travin watches him go, then asks Galen:

TRAVIN

These blood samples: is it
permissible to ask what they're
for?

GALEN

It is not permissible.

Travin nods, acquiescent...but when Galen turns away, we see that Travin's look of suspicion is beginning to be directed toward Galen.

INT. HALL - DAY

47

It is empty, except for the single figure of the Girl sweeping. Burke goes up to her. He smiles, says:

BURKE

Hello.

She looks up, startled, then reacts, turning away in reflexive fear.

BURKE

Don't be afraid. I just want to
talk to you.

Cont.

GIRL

No one may speak to me except
through my father.

BURKE

Your father said it's all right.
I need you to help me.

GIRL

What kind of help can I give you?

BURKE

We're running a medical test:
It's an experiment Dr. Adrian is
conducting. He wants a small
sample of everyone's blood.

GIRL

(fearful)

What for?

BURKE

Just to help in some lab work.
It's nothing to worry about.
Please...trust me.

She looks at him, torn between her fear and her feeling for
this one person who has been kind to her. After a long
moment, she says:

GIRL

I trust you.

INT. LAB - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

48

of a drop of blood on a small piece of clay. A hand reaches
INTO THE SHOT to squeeze a liquid substance on the blood;
the blood changes to indicate a noncompatible reaction.
(NOTE: DETAILS ON BLOOD TESTING WILL BE PROVIDED.)
CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Burke, holding the plate,
turning to Galen:

BURKE

No good; it's O-Positive. That
gives us just two compatible donors,
an AB-Negative and an O-Negative.

GALEN

Who?

BURKE

(hesitant)

One of them's that guy I clobbered,
Lafer. Let's hope his blood is in
better shape than his brain.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

49

of a pale, sick-looking Lafer sitting in a chair, being examined by Kira. Burke and Galen are waiting. After a beat, Kira turns from Lafer and goes up to Burke and Galen.

KIRA

He has a fever.

BURKE

That means we can't transfuse his blood.

GALEN

You said there was another eligible donor.

Burke hesitates, then says:

BURKE

I'll get her.

INT. HALL - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

50

of the Girl, in a panic:

GIRL

You want to take my blood?

FULL SHOT

51

to INCLUDE Burke, pleading with her:

BURKE

The procedure is safe. And you may help save his life.

GIRL

(hysterical)

No! The curse of evil will kill. You can't take my blood!

She runs. Burke, alarmed, runs after her.

OUT

52-
53

EXT. CENTRAL CITY STREET (OR: ANY AREA OUTSIDE THE CENTER, DEPENDING WHERE CENTER IS LOCATED IN RELATION TO THE CITY) - DAY

54

The Girl is running. Burke comes into view in pursuit. He catches her. She struggles, cries hysterically. Burke tries to calm her down.

Cont.

BURKE
Please, listen to me.

GIRL
Let me go!

BURKE
This won't hurt you. I promise.

GIRL
(trying to pull
away)
No!

BURKE
I know there are superstitions about
giving blood -- it drains strength,
life. That's nonsense. Please
believe I wouldn't do anything
to hurt you.

GIRL
I'm not afraid of what it will do
to me. My blood is evil. I'll
kill him. Please, please.
(collapses,
starts to cry)
I don't want to kill again.

BURKE
(puzzled)
Again?

Before she can respond, Travin's VOICE, from o.s.:

TRAVIN'S VOICE
(o.s.)
She's a murderer.

ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Travin, Lafer and several
other men. Travin turns to the Girl.

TRAVIN
Tell him.

GIRL
No. Please.

TRAVIN
Tell him!

Cont.

A long silence. Then the Girl says, sobbing, in tears, telling her story:

GIRL

My brother. I killed him.

CLOSE SHOT - BURKE

55

reacting.

INT. HUMANS' QUARTERS - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

56

of Travin, saying in a voice filled with pain:

TRAVIN

He was sixteen. My only son.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to INCLUDE Burke and the Girl, who is seated on the floor, in tears.

TRAVIN

There was a hunting accident.
They brought him back to the
Center. The doctors were doing
experiments with blood transfer...
it was the only time they ever
tried such a thing. I told them
they could use my son in the experiment.

(hastily)

I wasn't putting his life in danger.
He was dying. This was a way to
save him.

BURKE

What happened?

TRAVIN

My daughter gave him her blood.
The boy died. The doctors said
her blood was no good...no good!

(in anguish)

My only son...she killed him
with her evil blood!

BURKE

Listen to me: her blood wasn't
evil. The blood was incompatible,
it was of a different chemical
type, that's why your son died.
The transfusion should never have
been tried.

Cont.

TRAVIN

Are you saying I killed my son?
I was trying to save him! She
killed him. If she gives your
friend her blood, he'll die just
like my son!

BURKE

You're not worried he might
die. You're worried he might
live, aren't you?

Travin stares at Burke, stunned by his accusation, as
Burke continues:

BURKE

Dr. Kira told me the doctors
had their doubts about the blood
transfer experiment. They were
afraid to try it, even on humans.
But Dr. Kira says you insisted.

TRAVIN

To save my son!

BURKE

Was that the only reason? Or
were you trying to get in good
graces with the apes -- so they'd
reward you, promote you...

TRAVIN

(in tears)

My son was dying! There was
no other way to save him.

BURKE

You'll never know for sure. All
you know is, your way failed --
and the guilt's been tearing you
apart ever since. So you made up
this story about a curse -- and
came to believe it yourself. It
was easier to believe she was
cursed than that you had killed
your only son.

TRAVIN

No! No!

(to the Girl)

Don't listen to him. If you give
him your blood, you'll spread the
curse. The people will kill you!

Cont.

She looks at him, with new understanding beginning to dawn on her. Quietly:

GIRL
(in despair)
What would they be taking from
me by killing me? I died long
ago.

He looks at her, unable to respond to the simple truth of her words. He turns, angry, frustrated, and rushes OUT of the room. Burke takes the Girl's hand; she holds onto it tightly.

INT. VIRDON'S ROOM - DAY

A-56

Virdon being carried out on a stretcher by two humans. Once they clear the door, Burke ENTERS, gets the medical book from under the cot and EXITS.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

57

of Virdon on the operating table. CAMERA PULLS BACK SLOWLY to INCLUDE Kira, Galen and Burke, getting set to operate. The Girl is lying on an operating table close by, ready to transfuse blood if needed, through a simple gravity-type transfusion apparatus. The medical book is propped up where Burke and Kira can have easy access to it. Various instruments are set out on an adjacent table. Burke turns to Kira:

BURKE
Do you have any cloth masks?

KIRA
(puzzled)
Yes...we use them for going into
the room of the dead. But what
do we need them for?

BURKE
It's a long story...it has to
do with keeping the operating room
as clean as possible.

KIRA
We already scrubbed our hands
with soap and alcohol, as you
instructed. However, if you think
it's necessary...

Cont.

She goes to a cabinet, takes out some cloth masks, puts one on, gives the others to Burke and Galen. Burke puts his on, turns to Virдон.

BURKE

Dr. Kira says we're going to use a liquid anesthetic -- just breathe naturally through the cloth. You won't feel a thing.

VIRDON

At least until I get the bill.

Burke smiles, nods to Galen, who takes the chloroform-soaked towel from an enclosed container and lays it across Virдон's face. Virдон breathes deeply several times. Then he is asleep.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

58

Leander comes down the corridor. Dr. Stole comes up from the opposite direction. Leander stops him.

LEANDER

Dr. Stole. Do you know where Dr. Kira is?

STOLE

Yes, sir. She's in surgery.

LEANDER

Surgery? We don't have any surgery scheduled today.

STOLE

It was just posted, Doctor.

LEANDER

Who's the patient?

STOLE

Dr. Adrian's orderly.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

59

The operating team grouped around the table waiting to begin. Burke checks Virдон's pulse, then says:

BURKE

Pulse and respiration normal.

Cont.

Kira is checking the book.

KIRA
(who has been
uptight throughout)
This book was written by a human.
What if it's wrong?

BURKE
You're a bundle of joy.

GALEN
Please. Both of you. Are you
ready to start, Kira?

KIRA
Yes.

Kira picks up a scalpel; but before she can begin, a
VOICE o.s.:

LEANDER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Kira.

Kira freezes, covers book; then with the others looks up
to see Leander at the door.

LEANDER
Why didn't you tell me you were
operating?

GALEN
My fault, Doctor. I was supposed
to notify you.

LEANDER
What kind of operation is this?

KIRA
A bullet wound. The nerve system
may be affected.

LEANDER
How did the human get a bullet
wound?

GALEN
My colleagues and I were hunting.
While my orderly was retrieving the
game, he was shot by accident. Dr. Kira
is going to try a new experimental
surgical technique. If it works, it
can then be applied to apes.

Cont.

Noticing the Girl on the table:

LEANDER
The Girl, why is she here?
(seeing the
transfusion
apparatus)
You're not planning a blood
transfer?

GIRL
(in panic)
I'm sorry. I didn't mean
to do anything wrong.

She is ignored.

KIRA
There could be extensive
bleeding.

LEANDER
But we tried a blood transfer
once, it didn't work.

GALEN
We're trying a new process.
I've been working on it at
my clinic.
(to Girl)
You're doing fine. Just
relax.

Leander looks at him, torn between scientific curiosity
and a sense that things are not quite right. Then, in
an ironic tone:

LEANDER
Doctor, we may be on the
threshold of a breakthrough
in medicine. May I join you?

They freeze, at this unexpected and dangerous prospect.
Then Galen says, handing him one of the masks:

GALEN
Our pleasure, Doctor. Would
you mind wearing this mask?
We've found it useful in
protecting us from the vapors.

Cont.

Leander looks at him suspiciously -- then takes the mask. Kira shifts book to Burke, who gets it into position where he can peek surreptitiously.

LEANDER

You practice a fascinating kind
of medicine, Dr. Adrian. I'm
quite eager to watch you in action.

CAMERA HOLDS on Galen's reaction and we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

60

The team is grouped around the table, working under extreme pressure, not only because of the danger inherent in the surgery, but because of Leander's ominous presence. The Girl is in a state of permanent terror. She just stares at the ceiling. Kira, who is doing most of the work, flashes a look toward the surgery book -- but it is on Burke's side of the table, Burke blocking it with his body from Leander's view. Leander peers over, says to Galen:

LEANDER

Better put a clamp on that
bleeding vessel, Doctor.

Galen freezes: how does he do that? Burke hands him the clamp: What the hell does he do with it? Then he gets a brainstorm, hands Leander the clamp.

GALEN

It's rare that a country doctor
like me gets a chance to see a
surgeon in action. I'd like to
watch you do it.

LEANDER

It's just some minor bleeding,
Doctor. However...

He takes the clamp bleeder and applies it -- Galen relaxes for a moment -- but then:

KIRA

I can't reach the bullet. It's
trapped between the nerve cluster
and a large blood vessel.

Leander takes a look, then says, shaking his head, with cool detachment:

LEANDER

There's no way of removing that.
You'd better close up.

But Burke, who has been dreading this moment, turns to the book, then says in a steady voice:

BURKE

Make a second incision, about three
inches below the first. We'll try
to get at the bullet from below
the entry point.

LEANDER
(shocked)
What is he saying?
(to Galen)
Who is he?

GALEN
(steadily)
My orderly.

LEANDER
An orderly giving instructions
to Dr. Kira?

He pushes past Burke -- and sees the book. All action in the O.R. stops as Leander picks up the book. Leander stares at the book; then slowly, deliberately sets it down, and says in a calm voice:

LEANDER
It's obvious you have things
well in hand, doctors. I think
I can return to my other duties.

He starts to move for the door. Galen bars his way.

GALEN
Dr. Leander! You'd better stay.

Leander looks down, the CAMERA TILTING with him to the scalpel in Galen's hand. Leander stares at it, turns slowly to Kira:

LEANDER
Did he force you to do this?

Silence. Then Kira says the fateful words:

KIRA
No.

LEANDER
Why, then?

KIRA
Because I'm a doctor. And I
have no right to reject the truth.

LEANDER
(enraged)
The truth! That book is not truth!
That book is treason! That book is
madness!

Cont.

KIRA
 (quietly)
 That book exists. To deny
 what exists is madness.
 (turns to Burke)
 Scalpel.

Burke hands her the instrument.

INT. ZAIUS' HOUSE - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

61

of the opened cabinet, the CAMERA CLOSE on the bookshelf. Th
 space where the medical book was taken has been pushed to-
 gether so that no sign is apparent of a missing book.
 CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Urko, studying the bookshelf...
 then FURTHER to REVEAL Zaius at the other end of the room,
 as Urko says:

URKO
 So a burglar breaks into your study,
 ignores valuable objects of art, and
 makes off into the night with a piece
 of unfinished sculpture worth, according
 to you, about the price of a loaf of
 old bread.

ZAIUS
 (shrugs)
 All critics are not thieves. We
 may conclude that all thieves are
 not critics.

URKO
 I admire your humor, Zaius. But
 don't you think this is a serious
 matter?

ZAIUS
 Not serious enough to keep us from
 our business. Had I been there
 instead of at a Council meeting,
 I would not have thought it necessary
 to call the police over a minor
 burglary.

URKO
 In my opinion, no crime is minor.
 Is there a key to that cabinet?

ZAIUS
 Why?

Cont.

URKO

Call it intellectual curiosity.
Even a brutish policeman is
entitled to expand the potential
of his limited mind.

Zaius stares at him. Then he goes to the drawer, takes out a key, hands it to Urko. Urko opens the cabinet. He scans the row of books. Then he notices a place where the dust has been disturbed. He takes his hand, moves the books to the left and the right, exposing a place that fits the width of a full-sized book. Urko turns to Zaius.

URKO

An impressive collection. Impressive
and dangerous. You should have burned
them as I warned you.

ZAIUS

One day these books will serve us.

URKO

They will enslave us! And the
process has begun. Your burglar,
it seems, is a more clever critic
than we supposed. One of your
volumes is missing. What does our
burglar have? A text on human
politics? A manual of war?

ZAIUS

A book of surgery.

URKO

You knew it all along, didn't you?
When will you trust me, Zaius? We
can't afford to play games when our
civilization may be in danger.

ZAIUS

I agree about the danger. I don't
agree on hysteria as a means of
dealing with it. Is there anything
else?

Urko looks at him, then says, quietly, his own plan forming
in his mind:

URKO

No, Zaius. You've given me
all the information I need.

And on that cryptic, ominous note, he turns and EXITS.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CLOSE SHOT - DAY

62

of the transfusion tube joining the arms of Virдон and Girl. CAMERA PANS along the tube to Virдон, receiving the transfusion. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO INCLUDE the operating team, Kira working with Burke's assistance, Galen guarding Leander, who is looking on with detached interest. After a beat:

LEANDER

Quite fascinating. The blood transfer seems to be working.

Girl, who is lying tense and still, relaxes with a sigh of relief.

BURKE

Maybe you'll change your mind about us backward humans.

LEANDER

On the contrary: this whole exercise demonstrates the low level of your intelligence. Even if your friend lives, he can only hinder your escape. You would have done better to let him die in the forest.

BURKE

But then we would have never met you.

LEANDER

(laughs)

You show remarkable calmness under pressure. If I shut my eyes, I'd almost think you were an ape.

BURKE

(grins)

Doc, you've made my whole day!

Then suddenly:

CLOSE SHOT - THE RESPIRATORY BLADDER

63

It is an animal skin bag -- it expands, contracts -- then stops.

ANGLE FAVORING GALEN

64

who notices it first:

GALEN

Kira!

Cont.

Kira and Burke both look up, see the unmoving bladder. Burke feels for Viridon's pulse.

BURKE

I can't get any pulse.

GIRL

I killed him!

GALEN

Don't be silly!

At that, Leander speaks up:

LEANDER

The anesthesia must have affected his heart.

(pointing)

There's a stimulant in the cabinet.

Burke stares at him. Leander says, with impatient sarcasm:

LEANDER

What's the matter? Don't you trust an ape surgeon? Or are you waiting for verification from the great Dr. Mather?

Burke turns, goes to the cabinet, gets out the bottle of medicine Kira has pointed to. Leander takes the jar, pours some of the medicine onto a rag, and, forcing Viridon's mouth open, squeezes some of the medicine down his throat. A long, tense silence. Then the bladder resumes its expansion and contraction. A moment later:

BURKE

We're getting a pulse again.

Galen and Burke both relax. As Kira continues to work, Burke turns to Leander:

BURKE

Thank you, Doctor.

LEANDER

(shrugs)

I don't like patients dying in my operating room. It's bad for morale.

56

ANGLE FAVORING KIRA

65

who has been working through all this and who now says:

KIRA

There it is. The bullet.

She reaches for the bullet -- then withdraws it.

INSERT - THE BULLET

66

held tightly in the tweezers in Kira's hand.

BACK TO SCENE

67

Kira, triumphantly, to Burke:

KIRA

Let's close up.

Before resuming work, she glances at Girl.

ANGLE FEATURING GIRL AND VIRDON

68

on companion tables as before. Kira moves to Girl, pats her shoulder and removes the transfusion needle from her arm.

KIRA

You can get up.

Kira moves back to resume work on Virdon. CAMERA ANGLES as Burke steps to Girl's side to help her. She sits up unsteadily, glancing at the still figure of Virdon.

GIRL

Is he dead?

BURKE

Just sleeping. He'll live, thanks to you. The curse is gone.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER GATES - DAY

69

POUNDING on gates and HORSES' HOOVES HEARD as a Human hurriedly opens the gates. Horses seen in b.g. but Gorillas are dismounted. The troop is led by Urko who grabs the Human by the shirt.

URKO

We're looking for two humans and a renegade Ape.

Cont.

Human is terrified and incapable of coherent reply.

HUMAN

Sir -- Humans -- and an Ape -- ?
We have many human servants and,
of course --

Urko throws him aside in impatience, and turns to his troops.

URKO

Search everywhere. Find them.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

70

Kira is completing stitching, Girl watches fearfully; she has risen from the companion table. Leander is near the window, still covered by Galen.

KIRA

He should have an uneventful
recovery...

She's referring, of course, to Virdon. SOUNDS of Urko's troops from gates. Leander glances out the window.

LEANDER

I wouldn't say so...

Burke, Galen and Kira react. The former two hurry to look out window.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER GATES - P.O.V. SHOT - DAY

71

as troops pour through.

URKO'S VOICE

(o.s.)
I know they're here. This
time they won't get away.

OUT 72

INT. OPERATING ROOM

73

All contemplating disaster.

INT. HALL - DAY

74

Urko, accompanied by Two Troopers, is striding along the hall. He spots Travin who is approaching, carrying a tray of food. Urko pins him to the wall with an imperative forefinger.

Cont.

URKO
You. There are fugitives here.
I want to know where they are
hiding.

TRAVIN
Fugitives -- ?

URKO
Two humans and a Chimpanzee.

TRAVIN
I don't understand --

Lafer approaches, having overheard above.

LAFER
He knows --
(producing compass)
This was with his things. It
must have come from the stranger.

Urko studies compass briefly.

URKO
(to Travin)
If you explain quickly and
truthfully, I may let you live.

TRAVIN
I found it -- on the floor. I
don't know what it is, where it
comes from.

URKO
You lie!

LEANDER'S VOICE
(o.s.)
Urko, this is not a barracks.

WIDER ANGLE

A-74

Leander moves INTO SCENE.

LEANDER
Your shouting is disturbing my
patients.

URKO
(holding up
compass)
The Astronauts are here.

Cont.

LEANDER
Astronauts -- ?

URKO
Two humans -- special humans...
different. One is wounded.

LEANDER
Ah, those --

URKO
Where are they?

LEANDER
Gone. I'd suggest you go too.
As quickly as possible...

URKO
Are you giving me orders?

LEANDER
Not orders. Just a medical
warning.

He turns and looks o.s. to:

P.O.V. SHOT

75

The room across the corridor, with a flag over the door,
showing an ape head on a red background, with an "X" over
the ape head.

BACK TO SCENE

76

Leander turns to Urko:

LEANDER
The room of the dead -- our
busiest room, since the coming
of the plague.

URKO
(recoiling in
horror)
Plague?

LEANDER
The Black Death. Seven cases in
the last few days. When the strangers
learned of it, they fled. Of course,
if your duty compels you to search
the hospital...

Urko stares at him as if at the face of death.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - TIGHT SHOT - DAY

77

Galen and the Girl crouched along the wall. Viridon on the table in b.g., being tended to by Burke and Kira. Tension builds as door opens slowly to admit -- Leander.

ANOTHER ANGLE

78

Leander closes the door.

LEANDER

Urko displayed a proper and satisfying respect for the plague.

KIRA

Why did you help humans?

LEANDER

I was afraid you'd be taken in along with them -- and we have a date for tonight.

(then, with a grin)

Besides, if the police had arrested them, they might have found this.

And he reaches beneath his tunic and pulls out the surgical manual. Kira breaks into a big smile. Leander tucks the book under his arm and he and Kira continue on down the corridor.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER GATES - DAY

79

A "plague" cart is in position -- so identified by the plague flags which adorn it. Travin is ready to act as driver. Viridon is being assisted into the cart by Burke and the Girl. Once Viridon is in place, Burke turns to the Girl.

BURKE

You going to be all right?

She nods, smiles, not trusting words.

GIRL

Thank you.

VIRDON

I shouldn't leave without knowing the name of the girl who saved my life...

Girl hesitates, looking to Travin.

Cont.

TRAVIN

Tell him.

GIRL

I am -- Arna.

Burke is climbing into cart beside Virdon.

VIRDON

Thank you, Arna.

GIRL

(wonderingly)

Arna...

VIRDON

(to Burke)

Welcome to the Plague Express...

BURKE

I told you we travel first class.

Travin starts to arrange a "sheet" to cover Virdon and Burke. The sheet is merely a large piece of homespun. Galen, Leander and Kira move INTO SCENE from direction of Medical Center proper. Galen wears "hospital" gown.

LEANDER

I trust you'll return our plague cart and driver, Dr. Adrian...

GALEN

Believe me, I will. The last thing I need is another human!

LEANDER

Good luck.

He moves o.s. Galen turns to Kira, as Girl is now aiding Travin in completion of placing sheet.

TRAVIN

When I come back, Arna -- well, you know it will be different in every way I can make it so.

GIRL

I know...

ANGLE ON KIRA AND GALEN

80

Galen raises his hands in a gesture of helplessness.

GALEN

What do I say -- ?

KIRA

If you want my opinion, I'd suggest 'good-bye.'

GALEN

And no thanks to you?

KIRA

Not necessary. I helped your -- friends, but you helped me...

Galen is quizzical.

KIRA

...to have an accident. I collided with the truth -- about humans.

GALEN

Terrible. It does permanent injury to one's beliefs.

KIRA

(nodding)
I've begun to see the effects even on Leander.

GALEN

I like him.

KIRA

So do I. Good-bye, Galen.

GALEN

Necessary or not, thank you.

ANGLE WIDENS as Galen turns, moves beside Travin and the cart starts out.

FADE OUT

THE END